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Weekly Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

History's Severest Milk-Borne Epidemic.

Montreal has suffered the most severe milk-borne outbreak of typhoid fever ever to be recorded. In a preliminary report, issued by Dr. S. Boucher, Director of the Department of Health, the high lights of the epidemic are brought out. Giving the facts, as they have been uncovered, is most commendable and California health officers, in common with those of other states and provinces, will profit through the frankness of the Montreal Department of Health.

During the nine weeks ending April 30, 2603 cases of the disease with 233 deaths had been reported. The greatest number of cases reported during a single week was 650 with 48 deaths. Concerning the source of the outbreak Dr. Boucher states:

"Researches carried out in the city, amongst the employees of dairies, led to the discovery of a germ carrier working as foreman in a pasteurizing plant; his position as foreman called for his occasional handling of the different apparatus. He had previously been employed during six years in another plant of the same company, which was used for the wholesale trade of milk, of cream, the manufacturing of butter and ice cream, and he was there in charge of receiving milk and cream. Milk was sold in cans to large institutions, restaurants and groceries. This man was transferred to the second plant, on the 30th of January, where the retail trade of milk and cream is carried out; this was about two weeks before the first case of typhoid fever appeared.

"He had had typhoid of average virulence, when about 13 years of age, some 20 years ago; he has always enjoyed perfect health since; none of the persons residing with him ever contracted the disease. On the 2d of April he had started to take capsules of biliated typhoid vaccine, having taken three, one each day; the specimens which revealed the presence of typhoid bacilli were taken on the 8th of April, and on the 19th of April.

"The man is 33 years old, was married eleven months, had one child, is a widower 7 years, his wife having died from child birth, the child has itself died at 1½ years, from burns.

"Before and after his marriage, he always resided with his father and mother; there have been two boarders in this family, one during a year, another during two weeks."

The following control measures were employed in the management of the epidemic:

"1. In the first place a request was sent to all pasteurization plants, asking that particular attention be given to the functioning of pasteurizing apparatus, and to all milk dealers to supervise their milk supply, to reject any doubtful milk, and to carry out investigations themselves, with a view of detecting suspect cases amongst their employees or their families, and to report these to the Department of Health. They have generally and well cooperated.

2. Increase of the number of inspectors of pasteurization, and organization of a system of daily supervision in the different plants, completed by taking samples for bacteriological analysis, during the different stages in the handling of milk.

3. Better control of entry of milk in the city, preventing importation of milk from unauthorized farms.

4. Investigations in the country, at all milk producers authorized to ship to Montreal, and at their staffs. Information was sought at the same time, from physicians in the different localities, on the existence of typhoid fever cases.

5. Investigating of the employees of all dairies, and investigations at their homes.

6. Organization for bacteriological analysis in three different laboratories; the Provincial Bureau of Health's laboratory, the laboratory of McGill University, and that of the municipal Department of Health.

7. Organization of emergency hospitals, regular hospitals being insufficient, and we desired to hospitalize the greatest possible number of patients to give them better care, and to prevent contagion around them.

8. Organization of emergency hospitals for convalescents to discharge patients less rapidly, and only after the danger of transmitting infection had disappeared.

9. Organization for analysis of feces and urine of all food handlers, at whose residence typhoid fever occurred.

10. Free distribution of anti-typhoid vaccine to physicians, to institutions and to industrial and commercial establishments.

Four free vaccination stations were opened in different parts of the city by the Sun Life Insurance Company."

* *

Twenty years ago not a single state had a child hygiene department. Now every state but one has such a department. In 1907, there were fewer than 1000 public health nurses in the United States. Today, there are more than 12,000 and the number grows daily. The birth registration area, to obtain the necessary records of infant mortality, was formed only twelve years ago.

The great opportunity ahead of us is to develop an efficient transportation system of sound health knowledge. Eight thousand people, mostly children, lost their lives last year from diphtheria. This is an unnecessary sacrifice. Diphtheria is slowly losing ground, however, for twenty years ago the annual toll was between 25 and 30 thousand.—Dr. S. J. Crumbine.

* *

Signal Hill Has New Health Officer.

Dr. R. J. Striegel has been appointed City Health Officer of Signal Hill, succeeding Dr. Franklin A. Beggs.

United States Army Conquers Typhoid.

Prior to 1910, when the use of anti-typhoid vaccine was first begun in the Army, from 20 to 100 soldiers in every 10,000 suffered attacks of typhoid every year. By 1912, when protective vaccination had come into general use throughout the Army, the typhoid rate had been reduced to three in every 10,000, whereas in 1915 only 8 of every 100,000 soldiers had typhoid.

This is the measure of the progress which the U. S. Army has made against one of its former most terrible scourges. Its medical advisers have availed themselves of and put into effect the best of modern practice relating to environmental sanitation and personal hygiene, and the organization of the Army is such that it has been possible to take advantage of the very great degree of protection afforded by the use of anti-typhoid vaccine as a preventive measure.

Read this epic of medical progress as related by Surgeon-General Ireland of the U. S. Army.

The World War demonstrated, on the most vast scale possible, the very great value of prophylactic typhoid vaccine as a preventive measure. During the Spanish-American War about 20,000 soldiers suffered attacks of typhoid and about 2000 died of it, whereas during the World War there were only about 2000 cases with approximately 200 deaths. These gross figures, striking though they be, fall far short of representing the actual results obtained in the prevention of typhoid. The number of men mobilized for the Spanish-American War was only about 250,000, while during the World War approximately 4,000,000 men were called to active service. Considered, therefore, in the light of the actual strength of the American armies engaged in the two wars, it can be stated that for every *one* case of typhoid occurring during the World War 150 occurred during the Spanish-American War.

Our armies fared much better in this respect than did the armies of our Allies. The mobilization of the French and British armies was of necessity a very hurried one and the existing emergency prevented the widespread use of this prophylactic measure. In the French armies, for example, 45,000 cases of typhoid and paratyphoid occurred during the first six months of hostilities. Not until about the end of the second year of the war was it possible for the French to very completely apply this prophylactic measure. The value of its use is evidenced by the fact that during the first two years of the war, when vaccine was administered only to limited numbers of men, approximately 100,000 French soldiers had typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, whereas during the last two years, when it was possible to apply this measure generally, only about 2000 cases occurred. The armies of all of our Allies had a somewhat similar experience, except that the British succeeded in initiating this prophylactic measure through every part of their forces within a few months of the outbreak of the war, with the result that this group of diseases was immediately brought under control.

Today cases of typhoid fever are looked upon as medical curiosities in Army hospitals. During 1925, with an average strength of 136,000 men, only 4 cases of typhoid occurred in the Army. One of these had recently been enlisted and was not protected by vaccination. The diagnosis was confirmed by recovery of the typhoid organism from the blood. The remaining three had been vaccinated previously. The diagnosis in these cases was based on clinical symptoms and could not be confirmed by laboratory examinations, though such examinations were made. All patients recovered.

* * *

"In the case of the Puritan-Calvinist Dutch it was good form to wash one's hands frequently, one's feet very seldom, one's head never. The washing of his feet was so extraordinary an event in the life of Pepys that he marked it down in his diary as having occurred on May 30, 1663. A great event in 1649 was the coming to Paris of a Russian Prince to have his teeth cleaned."

"The kings of France had no bathrooms or washstands, and seldom washed at all. In 1870 a student in the theological school of Leipzig University was not allowed to pass his examinations for the doctor's degree because of his modernism, which consisted in washing his whole body; it was whispered that the miscreant actually took baths. A Belgian medical authority, in the eighteenth century, advised that if bathing is too difficult an undertaking, people ought to put on clean linen at least once every six weeks. It will be seen from the foregoing that we are in an advanced state of sanitary evolution today and that there is no reason for pessimism regarding the matter of public hygiene."

Dr. Randall Made County Health Officer.

Dr. Samuel B. Randall is now Health Officer of Santa Cruz County, succeeding Dr. Alfred R. Phillips.

LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW.

ANTHRAX
BERI-BERI
BOTULISM
CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHICKENPOX
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DENGUE
DIPHTHERIA
DYSENTERY
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
ERYSIPELAS
FLUKES
FOOD POISONING
GERMAN MEASLES
GLANDERS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*
HOOKWORM
INFLUENZA
JAUNDICE, INFECTIOUS
LEPROSY
MALARIA
MEASLES
MUMPS
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
PARATYPHOID FEVER
PELLAGRA
PLAGUE
PNEUMONIA
POLIOMYELITIS
RABIES
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
SYPHILIS*
TETANUS
TRACHOMA
TUBERCULOSIS
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
WHOOPING COUGH
YELLOW FEVER

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)
CHOLERA, ASIATIC
DIPHTHERIA
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)
LEPROSY
PLAGUE
POLIOMYELITIS
SCARLET FEVER
SMALLPOX
TYPHOID FEVER
TYPHUS FEVER
YELLOW FEVER

***Reported by office number. Name and address not required.**

MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

93 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 5, Berkeley 1, Oakland 6, Contra Costa County 1, Hercules 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 11, Burbank 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 27, Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, Merced County 1, Brea 3, Perris 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 10, Redwood City 2, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 1.

Scarlet Fever.

136 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 3, Oakland 9, Jackson 1, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 2, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 1, Burbank 1, El Monte 2, Glendale 1, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 28, Monrovia 3, Pasadena 4, Pomona 2, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 2, Orange 1, Sacramento 1, Isleton 1, Redlands 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 8, San Francisco 19, Stockton 4, Santa Clara County 6, Mountain View 1, San Jose 3, Shasta County 3, Sonoma County 1, Tulare County 2.

Measles.

571 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 10, Oakland 21, Fresno County 5, Fresno 12, Calexico 2, Kern County 2, Lemoore 2, Los Angeles County 69, Alhambra 6, Beverly Hills 4, Burbank 5, Claremont 7, Compton 3, Glendale 16, Glendora 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 75, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 14, Pomona 2, Redondo Beach 1, San Fernando 3, San Gabriel 5, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 2, Monterey Park 5, Mariposa County 1, Orange

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* From reports received on June 20th and 21st for week ending June 18th.

County 7, Anaheim 4, Brea 1, Fullerton 2, Orange 13, Santa Ana 7, Placer County 3, Riverside County 5, Corona 5, Elsinore 4, Riverside 23, Sacramento 9, Ontario 2, Redlands 2, San Diego County 36, Coronado 10, National City 1, San Diego 49, San Francisco 43, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 6, Arroyo Grande 7, Burlingame 5, San Mateo 6, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 6, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Clara County 3, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Shasta County 1, Benicia 3, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 2.

Smallpox.

13 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 1, Corona 3, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1, Sunnyvale 2, Stanislaus County 4.

Typhoid Fever.

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported. as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Oroville 1, Kern County 2, Santa Ana 1, San Francisco 1, Sonora 1.

Whooping Cough.

191 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Albany 1, Berkeley 10, Oakland 33, Colusa 11, Fresno County 2, Fresno 2, Los Angeles County 13, Alhambra 2, Glendale 3, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 16, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 4, San Gabriel 1, South Pasadena 1, Torrance 2, Hawthorne 1, Monterey Park 5, Merced County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, Colfax 1, Riverside 2, San Diego 19, San Francisco 33, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 13, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 1.

Epidemic Meningitis.

7 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Kern County 1, Fullerton 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 1, Sutter County 2.

Poliomyelitis.

14 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: San Leandro 1, Fresno 2, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 4, Los Angeles 4, Santa Clara County 1.

Leprosy.

San Diego County reported one case of leprosy.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

San Francisco reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Jaundice (Epidemic).

La Mesa reported one case of epidemic jaundice.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1927				1926			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending June 18 received by June 21	Week ending			Reports for week ending June 19 received by June 22
	May 28	June 4	June 11		May 29	June 5	June 12	
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Botulism	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	326	286	332	286	256	188	251	169
Diphtheria	141	121	114	93	109	90	107	76
Dysentery (Bacillary)	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	1	1	1	4	0	0	0
Gonococcus Infection	117	97	94	84	151	89	77	123
Influenza	19	12	16	10	21	20	14	7
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	0
Leprosy	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1
Malaria	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1
Measles	1105	960	727	571	574	495	527	425
Meningitis (Epidemic)	10	9	5	7	4	2	2	4
Mumps	248	202	180	156	294	274	237	135
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia (Lobar)	44	41	112	40	33	53	32	33
Poliomyelitis	7	7	6	14	6	7	2	0
Rabies (Animal)	4	5	16	8	6	3	12	8
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Scarlet Fever	136	170	156	136	147	111	144	126
Smallpox	24	21	23	13	19	45	23	11
Syphilis	96	129	83	144	132	119	105	92
Tetanus	2	1	0	1	2	3	1	0
Trachoma	2	3	6	1	2	1	3	3
Trichinosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis	205	207	250	178	192	234	169	163
Typhoid Fever	15	9	15	8	21	22	15	14
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	219	224	215	191	76	76	75	76
Totals	2721	2511	2358	1947	2051	1834	1803	1467

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